

CLAIMS

At the time of the Action:

Pending Claims: 1-20

Withdrawn Claims: None

Canceled Claims: 21-29

After this Response:

Pending Claims: 1-20

Amended Claims: 1 and 11

Withdrawn: None

Canceled Claims: None

New Claims: None

1. (Currently Amended) A method for allowing instant messaging between a multi-user computer and an instant messaging device, comprising the steps of:

receiving first login information from a first user of the multi-user computer by an instant messaging system;

receiving second login information from a second user of the multi-user computer by the instant messaging system while the first user is logged in; and

providing ~~an~~ a shared use indication, wherein the shared use indication indicates a lack of privacy to the instant messaging device ~~that~~ since the first user and the second user are concurrently logged into the instant message system together through the multi-user computer.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 in which the second user is a guest and the second login information does not correspond to a specific instant messaging user.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
providing a visual user interface to users of the multi-user computer concurrently with visual content from the multi-user computer.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3 further comprising the step of:
rendering an instant message from the multi-user computer over a portion of a video display without a visible window surrounding the instant message.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4 in which the instant message is rendered with a user-discernible fade in and a user-discernible fade out.
6. (Original) The method of claim 4 in which the instant message is rendered over a marginal region of the video display.
7. (Original) The method of claim 4 in which the instant message is rendered over a user-selectable portion of the video display.
8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

providing a visual user interface to users of the multi-user computer concurrently with visual content from another source.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3 further comprising the step of transmitting one of plural predefined instant messages from the multi-user computer.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising receiving from a wireless remote control device a user indication of the one of plural predefined instant messages transmitted from the multi-user computer.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer usable instructions stored thereon for execution by a processor to perform a method [[a]] for allowing instant messaging between a multi-user computer and an instant messaging device, comprising the steps of:

receiving first login information from a first user of the multi-user computer by an instant messaging system;

receiving second login information from a second user of the multi-user computer by the instant messaging system while the first user is logged in; and

providing ~~an~~ a shared use indication, wherein the shared use indication indicates a lack of privacy to the instant messaging device that the first user and the second user are concurrently logged into the instant message system together through the multi-user computer

12. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 11 further comprising the step of:

providing a visual user interface to users of the multi-user computer concurrently with visual content from the multi-user computer.

13. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 12 further comprising the step of rendering an instant message on a portion of a video display without a visible window surrounding the instant message.

14. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 13 in which the instant message is rendered with a user-discernible fade in and a user-discernible fade out.

15. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 13 in which the instant message is rendered over a marginal region of the video display.

16. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 13 in which the instant message is rendered over a user-selectable portion of the video display.

17. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 11 further comprising the step of:

providing a visual user interface to users of the multi-user computer concurrently with visual content from another source.

18. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 17 further comprising transmitting one of plural predefined instant messages.

19. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 18 in which the one of plural predefined instant messages transmitted from the multi-user computer is selected by a user with a wireless remote control device.

20. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 11 wherein the second user is a guest and the second login information does not correspond to a specific instant messaging user.

21 – 29 (Canceled)